

REMARKS

1. Status of Claims

Claims 13-37 were pending in the Application. Applicants have amended claims 22, 28, 31 and 35 and canceled claims 13-15, 21, 25-27 and 34 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants submit that no new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments and consideration of the enclosed remarks. Accordingly, claims 16-20, 22-24, 28-33 and 35-37 will remain pending in the application.

2. Rejections under 35 USC § 103

In section 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 13 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 6,234,694 B1 to Brookner ("Brookner '694").

Solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 13 and 25 without prejudice or disclaimer and thus the rejection is moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

In section 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 14, 15, 21, 26, 27 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 6,234,694 B1 to Brookner ("Brookner '694") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,389,327 B1 to Thiel ("Thiel '327").

Solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 14, 15, 21, 26, 27 and 34 without prejudice or disclaimer and thus the rejection is moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

3. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowability of claims 16-20 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 22-24, 28-33 and 35-37 if rewritten in independent form. Claims 22, 28, 31 and 35 have been rewritten in independent form

and therefore are allowable over the cited references along with claims dependent therefrom.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 16-20, 22-24, 28-33 and 35-37 are patentable over the cited references and in condition for allowance.

4. Conclusion Of Remarks

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

5. Authorization

No fee is believed due with this response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-113.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-113.

Respectfully submitted,

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